

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action dated February 24, 2006, has been received, and its contents carefully noted. In addition, appreciation is expressed to Examiner Ruddock for her courtesy and constructive assistance during the personal interview held with undersigned counsel on May 30, 2006.

Statement of Substance of Interview

During that interview, the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art were discussed in detail and at the conclusion of this discussion it was agreed that if the independent claims of the application were amended to specify that the armor layer, or plates, are slantingly oriented to the body being protected, those amended claims would appear to define patentably over the applied references.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims of the present application has been amended in precisely this manner.

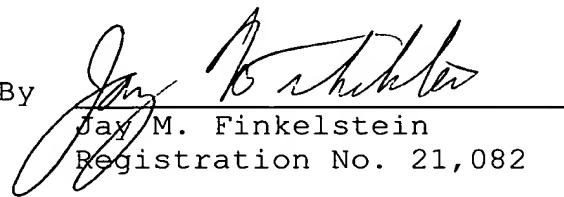
Since none of the applied references disclose such an orientation for the armor layer or plates of an armor assembly, it is submitted that the claims now distinguish patentably over the applied references and it is therefore requested that the prior art rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

Appln. No. 09/904,585
Amd. dated June 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2006

If the above response should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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